



I Got Caught Recycling  
#recycleblue

2020  
**ANNUAL  
REPORT**

411 S. Limestone, Lexington KY 40506  
859.257.6234

recycle@uky.edu  
@UKYRecycles



## 2020 ANNUAL REPORT

2020 is definitely one for the history books! In March of 2020, the University temporarily shut down due to COVID-19. Although programs and plans changed, UK Recycling was able to adjust and virtual interact with students, staff and faculty.

Despite the complications of 2020, UK Recycling was able to launch new programs, including:

- Coffee Waste Composting
- Pallet Recycling
- Website Expansion

In addition to new programs, UK Recycling launched multiple virtual campaigns on social media to keep campus engaged with waste reduction and recycling!

COVID-19 changed a lot of things, including how campus looked, who worked on campus and operational needs. Throughout the pandemic, UK Waste, Recycling and Trucking continued to provide the same high-quality service throughout campus, including UK Healthcare and UK Athletics. UK Recycling continued operations without any interruptions.

**THANK YOU TO ALL OUR STAFF THAT  
HELPED KEEP CAMPUS MOVING  
FORWARD!**

## COVID-19 REPORT



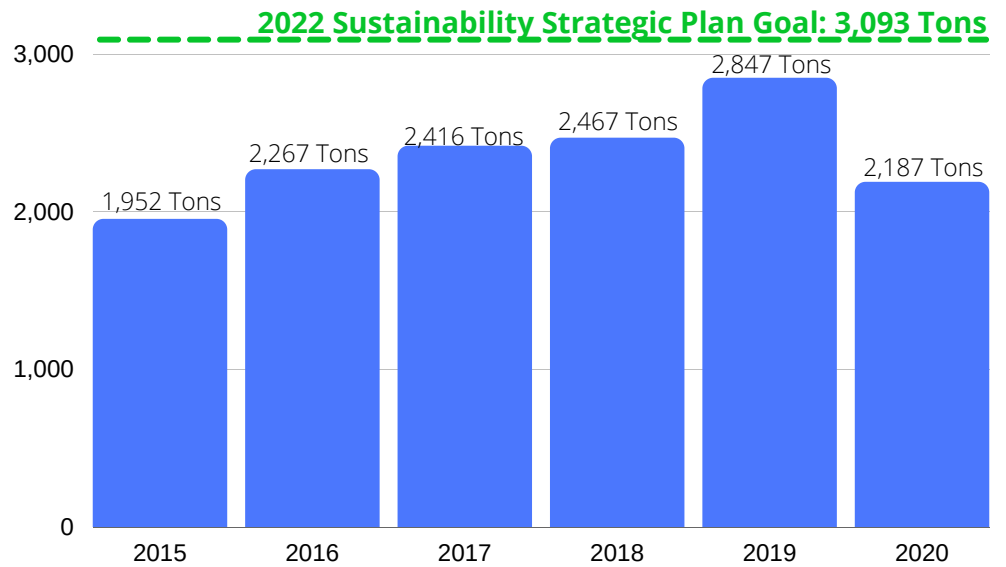
## Year in Review

# RECYCLING

Recycling at UK includes more than just bottles and cans. UK Recycling accepts other material like scrap metal, light bulbs, and cardboard. Check out UK Recycling's website for a full list of items that can be recycled.



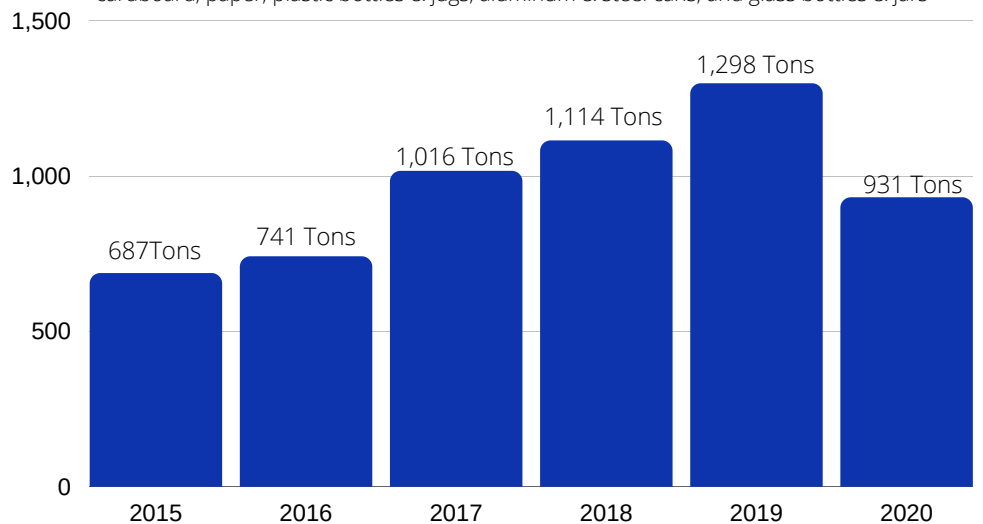
## Recycling Goal vs. Actual Weight



Although 2020 saw a **33%** decrease in the overall weight of material recycled, UK Recycling is excited to report a **21% Recycling Rate** for 2020. That is up from a 20% rate in 2019.

## All-in-One General Recycling

cardboard, paper, plastic bottles & jugs, aluminum & steel cans, and glass bottles & jars



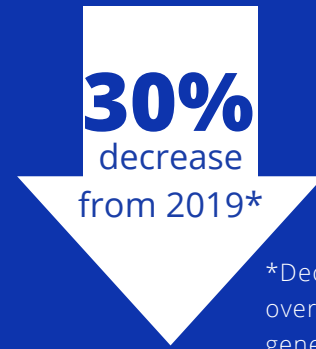
**One of the UK Sustainability Strategic Plan Goals is to increase recycling by 25% by 2022**, which includes the All-in-One general recycling program. Prior to 2020, UK Recycling was on track to hit that goal.

All weights, including landfill material, were reduced in 2020 due to COVID-19. Although recycling tonnage is decreased, the overall percentages have held steady, indicating **campus has maintained positive behavior changes.**

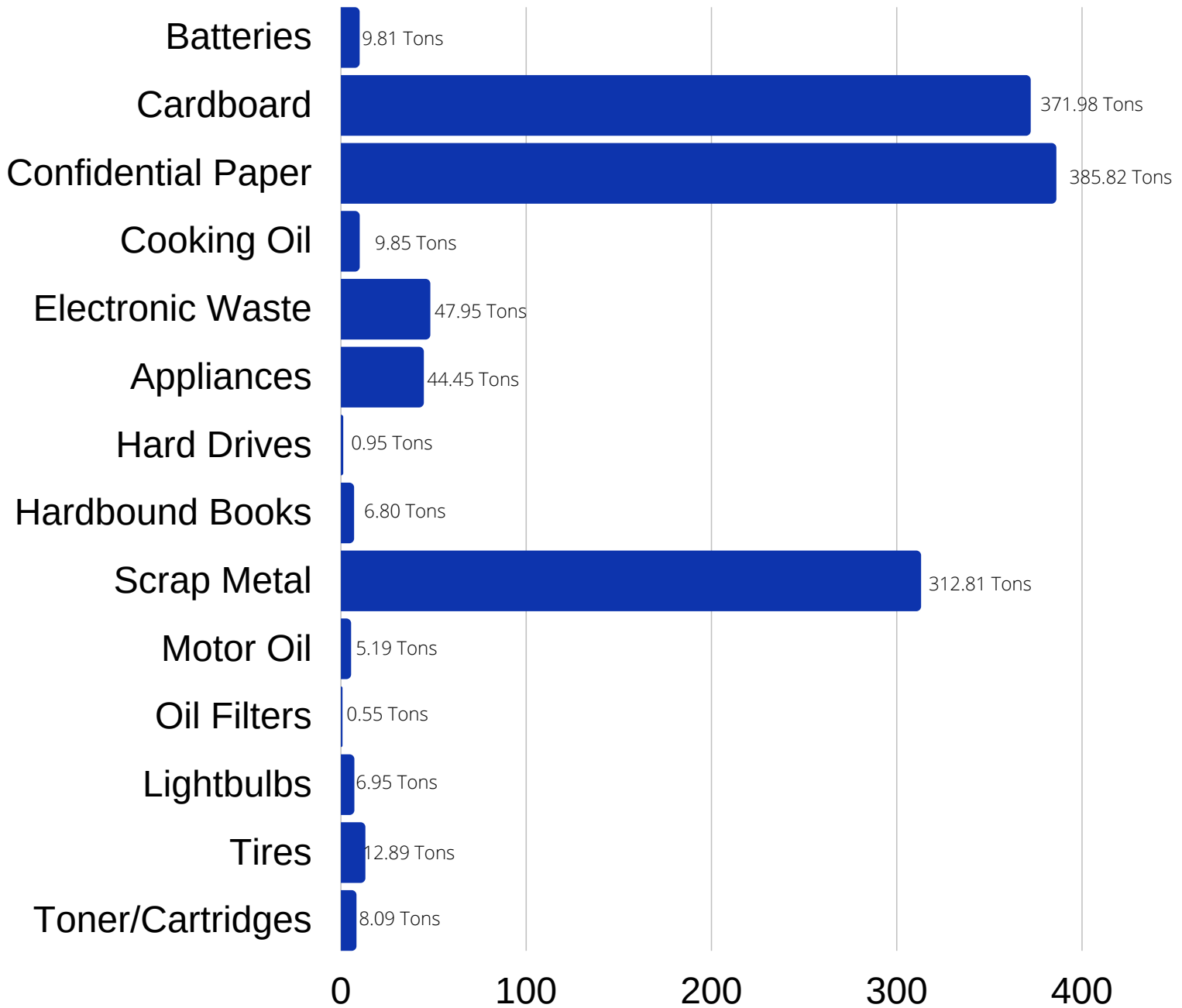
Year in Review

# OTHER RECYCLING

In addition to general recycling, UK Recycling has other recycling programs to capture a wider range of materials. Check out the full list of items recycled on UK Recycling's [website](#).



\*Decreased reflects overall material generation on campus.

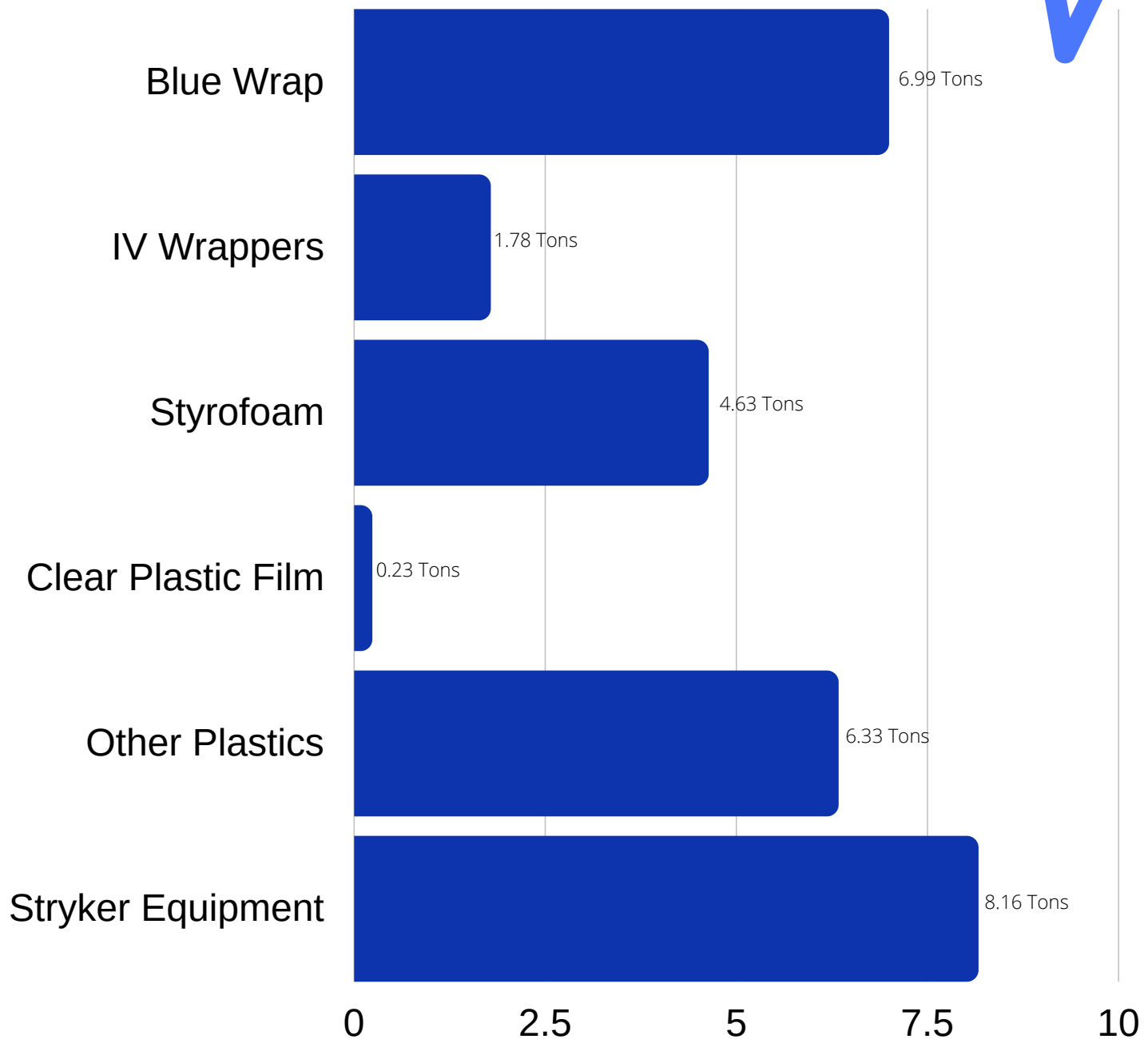


Year in Review

# OTHER RECYCLING HEALTHCARE

UK Healthcare works with UK Recycling to increase their recycling efforts!

Check out the full list of items recycled at UKHC on [UK Recyclings website.](#)



Year in Review

# AMERICA RECYCLES DAY

Each year, to celebrate America Recycles Day, November 15th, UK Recycling develops a campaign to encourage faculty, staff and students to recycle. The 2020 campaign focused on the amount of cardboard that is thrown away each year at UK.



Based on a 2018 Waste Characterization Study conducted by UK Recycling, it was determined that over **17 bales or 20,000lbs of cardboard is sent to the landfill each week on campus.** UK Recycling partnered with Central KY Fiber Resources to bring 17 bales of cardboard to campus - W.T. Young walkway.

For 3 days, students, faculty, staff and the community walked past the display, which included various yard signs that explained the cardboard and encouraged everyone to do their part and recycle. A [website](#), QR Codes and interactive social media campaign was also created with additional ways for campus to get involved.

**20,000 lbs of cardboard**  
is still sent to the landfill **each week** on campus.  
That's equal to the weight of 18 thoroughbred horses.

**20,000 lbs of cardboard**  
is still sent to the landfill **each week** on campus.  
That's equal to the weight of 87 UK football players.

Year in Review

# RECYCLING SPOTLIGHT

COVID-19 was able to shut down most of normal day life, however UK Recycling is proud to have stayed open and operational for all of campus and UKHC.



## 19,620 lbs

Batteries  
Recycled

## Battery Recycling

In 2020, UK Recycling continued to collect and recycle all forms and types of batteries. Over **9 tons of batteries** from campus, athletics and healthcare were collected and recycled.

Although the University saw a decrease in over all material generated on campus, battery recycling **increased by 8%**. This improvement is attributed to increased battery containers at UKHC and on campus.

## Styrofoam Recycling

## 9,260 lbs

Styrofoam Coolers  
Recycled

In 2020, UK Recycling was also able to **increase styrofoam recycling by 27%** from 2019. A total of 4,552 coolers were collected from campus and UKHC.

In addition to recycling coolers, UK Recycling was able to reuse coolers in partnership with UK Specialty Pharmacy. Early in the pandemic, UK Specialty Pharmacy's cooler supplier shut down and was no longer able to provide coolers needed to ship medication. UK Recycling was able to deliver coolers to ensure UK Specialty Pharmacy stayed in operation while supplies were not available.



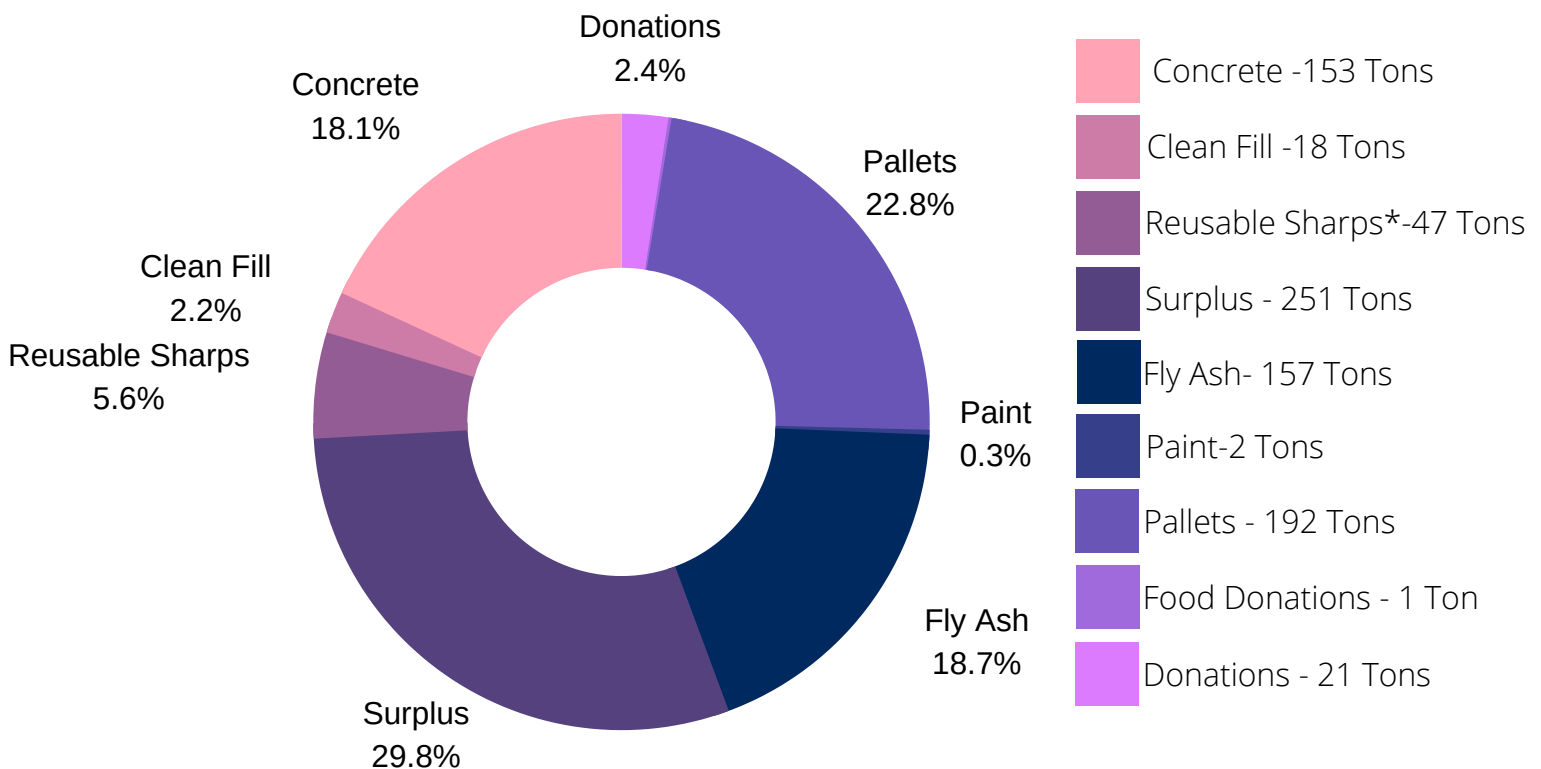
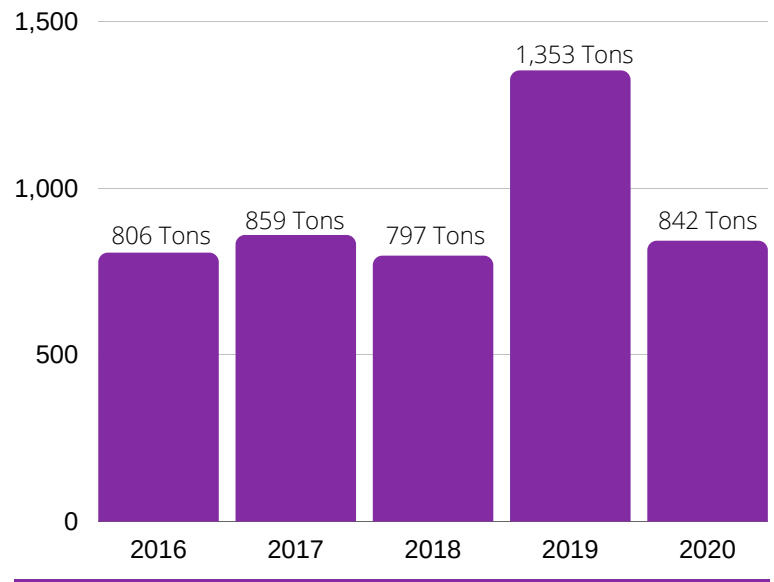
Year in Review

# DONATION/REUSE

Although UK Recycling's donation and reuse efforts saw a decrease from 2019 due to COVID-19 and a temporary shut down, UK is exceptionally proud of the efforts campus made to continue the program.

Partnerships continued to prove valuable in achieving waste reduction. UK Surplus began a new program to track actual weights instead of estimates. Additionally, Residences Life and Goodwill partnered with UK Recycling to continue the fall semester Give & Go Move out program, which collected 663lbs. of material

## Donation & Reuse



\*Items from UKHC that are properly cleaned and reused



Year in Review

# SUSTAINABILITY INTERNSHIP RECYCLING INTERN

The Office of Sustainability partners with the Student Sustainability Council and the Tracy Famer Institute for Sustainability and the Environment (TFISE) to provide exciting and meaningful undergraduate internship opportunities. UK Recycling happily hosts 2 interns each year.



In 2020, Sophie Beavin & Antonio Zizzo worked to create a Fix It Festival. Although this event was scheduled to take place at the Gatton Student Center in April 2020, the early end to in-person classes on campus forced the interns to change it to a virtual event. A website was created as well as a social media campaign.

WEBSITE INFORMATION

### SEWING

BUILD YOUR FIX-IT TOOLBOX

Build Your Own Sewing Kit  
For quick fixes at home and on the go.  
Fixing a button, patching a hole, or mending a seam are just some of the simple tasks that can be completed with your own sewing kit!

Start with the Basics  
Simple tools will get you started.  
Gather some basic colored thread, several needles, a pin cushion, and scissors.

Add Some Accessories  
Create some flair for your sewing kit!  
Add buttons, an assortment patches, and different colored thread to make your kit more versatile.

Find a Container  
To hold your sewing kit.  
Many things can be used as a container: a grocery basket, soap box, jar, or Tupperware.

Learn How to Sew  
For simple repairs and fun projects.  
Many resources can be found online. Some available resources are instructables and the Stitch in. Don't Patch It Team.

### BICYCLES

BUILD YOUR FIX-IT TOOLBOX

Build a Bike Repair Kit  
For quick fixes at home and on the go.  
One of the best ways to avoid a broken bicycle is to perform routine maintenance at home! From lubing a chain to repairing your brake pads, your fix it toolbox will help you keep your bike in pristine condition.

Start with the Basics  
Simple tools to get you started.  
Gather an allen wrench set, air pump, tire pressure gauge, clean rag, and chain lube (up to 100 ml).

Lubricate Your Chain  
Avoid expensive replacements!  
Replacing a chain can be time-consuming and expensive. To lengthen the life of your chain, first clean any dirt or gunk, then apply a drop of lubrication to each link.

Maintain Tire Pressure  
High tire pressure is best.  
Low tire pressure can make maintaining speed more difficult and leave your wheel susceptible to cracking from a rough bump in the road.

Find Help Locally  
Use local resources to troubleshoot.  
There are many wonderful resources on campus, such as Wheelbar Wheels, that can assist you in maintaining and repairing your bike. Broke Spoke and other local shops can offer help as well!

### COMPOSTING

BUILD YOUR FIX-IT TOOLBOX

Start a Home Compost  
To reduce food waste.  
Start your own compost system in the comfort of your home or apartment. This will help reduce food waste from being sent to the landfill!

Find a Container  
To hold your compost.  
Use a stainless steel bucket, old coffee grounds container, or plastic milk jug to hold your compost. Storing it in your freezer will reduce any smell!

What Can I Put in It?  
No cooked food!  
You can only discard fruit and vegetable scraps, coffee grounds, eggshells, and shredded newspaper in your home compost.

Once the Container is Full  
Discard your compost.  
Once the container is full, discard the contents at one of the many compost drop off locations around town. This will then be made into a fertile soil amendment!

Resources  
To find out more.  
Many resources can be found on online and around town! Check out Seedleaf, Campus Kitchens, or try a quick internet search for more information.

### T-SHIRT BAGS

BUILD YOUR OWN FIX-IT TOOLBOX

Step One  
Cut off the collar and sleeves of the t-shirt.

Step Two  
Cut 3/4-1 inch-wide slits all along the bottom of the shirt.

Step Three  
Take two strands and tie them together. Be sure to double-knot!

Step Four  
Repeat until all strands are tied.

You're Done!  
Creating a stylish and sustainable t-shirt bag is that simple, enjoy!

SOCIAL MEDIA



### Why Fix it?

To preserve natural resources

### Why Fix it?

To keep things out of the landfill!

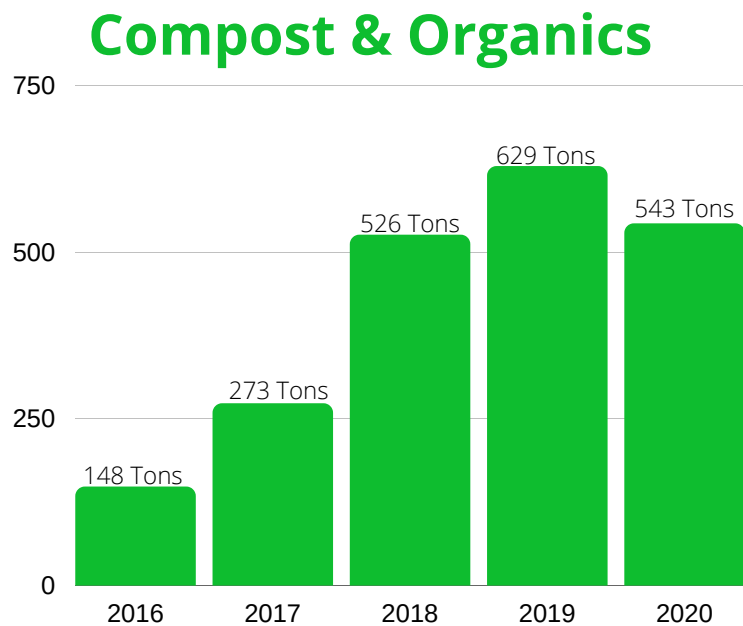
### BUY MAKE THRIFT SWAP BORROW USE WHAT YOU HAVE

THE BUYERARCHY of NEEDS

## Year in Review

**COMPOST & ORGANICS**

The organics program at the University continues to expand. Not only did the food waste program continue in UK Dining facilities, but expanded to include coffee waste. A new partnership was formed between the University and Shyco Wood products to more efficiently capture, reuse and compost pallets from campus.



Additionally, UK Grounds continued to collect yard waste - leaves, brush, wood chips, etc. - throughout campus. Additional locations for yard waste containers were identified and used to increase capacity and participation.

**Organics by the numbers:**105 tons  
mulched**PALLETS**213 tons  
composted**LEAVES**33 tons  
composted**FOOD WASTE**

Year in Review

# COFFEE WASTE COMPOST EXPANSION

UK Recycling, in partnership with UK Sustainability, UK Dining, and UK College of Agriculture, Food and the Environment, expanded the food waste compost program to include coffee waste from W.T. Young Starbucks, Gatton Student Center Starbucks and Cup of Commonwealth. Over **33 tons of food and coffee waste was collected on campus.**



## COFFEE WASTE PROGRAM

Place these items in green bucket:



Coffee Grounds



Used Coffee Filters



Espresso Grounds



Used Napkin or Paper towel



Wooden Stir Stick



Tea bags

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Place in landfill containers  
All other waste should be landfilled, including the following:



Food Bags



Food



Food Wrapper



Cups



**859.257.6234**



University of Kentucky.  
Composting Partnership  
A partnership between Dining, Recycling and the College of Agriculture, Food and Environment

## COFFEE WASTE PROGRAM

Program Details



- 5-gallon buckets provided to capture coffee waste
- Buckets have lids to minimize mess and spills
- Full buckets emptied into larger roll cart in loading dock area

\*Starbucks staff responsible for necessary cleaning 5-gallon buckets.

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- Full buckets should be emptied into 50 gallon roll cart located in the loading dock area
- Make sure roll cart has a clear bag before emptying buckets
- Roll carts emptied daily (Mon-Fri) by UK Recycling



\*UK Recycling is responsible for placing a clear bag in each roll cart.



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University of Kentucky.  
Composting Partnership  
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## Reusable To-Go Containers

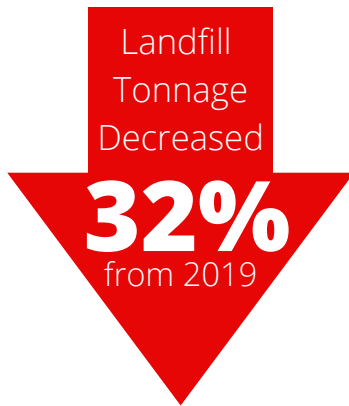
2020 and the COVID-19 pandemic created operational challenges throughout campus. One in particular was the change from reusable plates in dining halls to styrofoam togo containers. In an effort to reduce styrofoam waste, UK Recycling, UK Sustainability and UK Dining partnered to distribute 1,500 reusable togo containers to students.



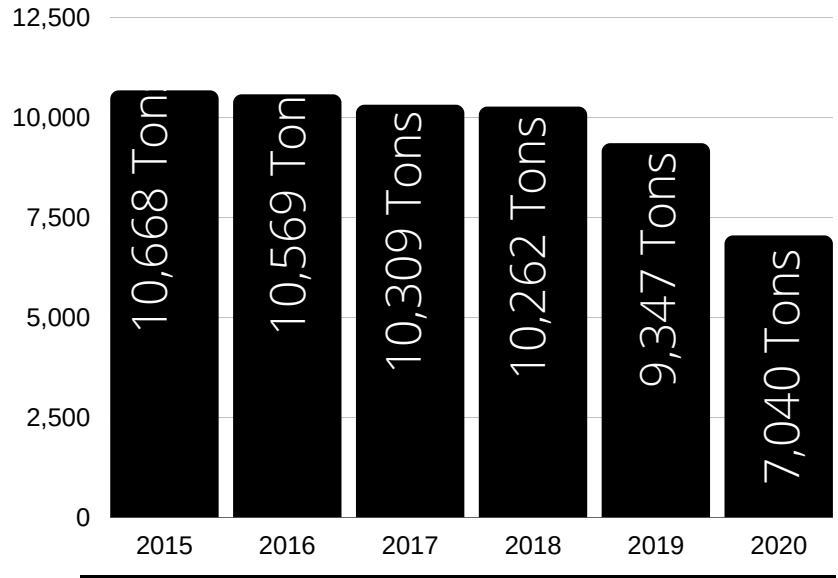
Year in Review

# DIVERSION

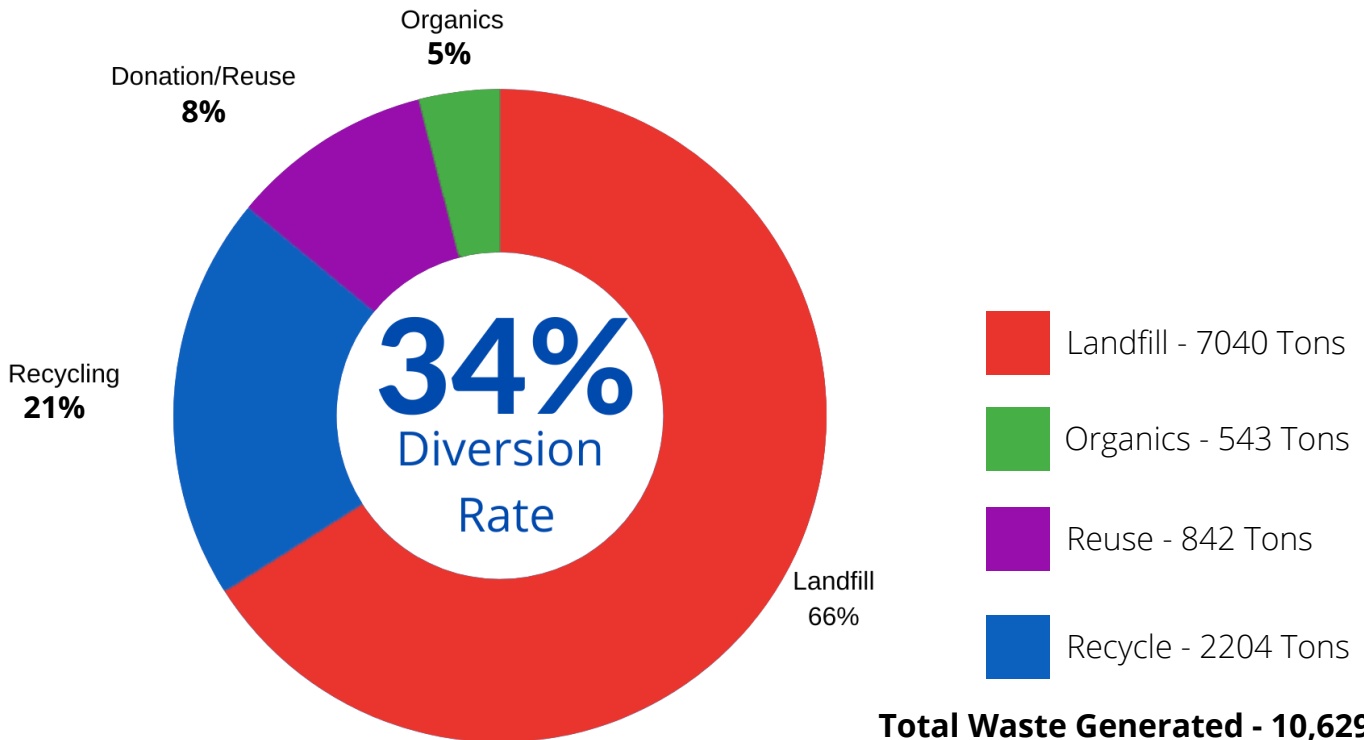
The 2019 diversion rate for UK was 34%. The University was able to maintain that diversion rate for 2020. Given all the unexpected changes to operations and campus closures, holding the diversion rate steady at 34% attributed to continued positive behavior change.



## LANDFILL WASTE



## TOTAL WASTE



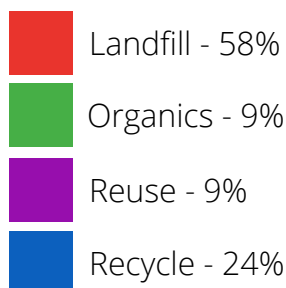
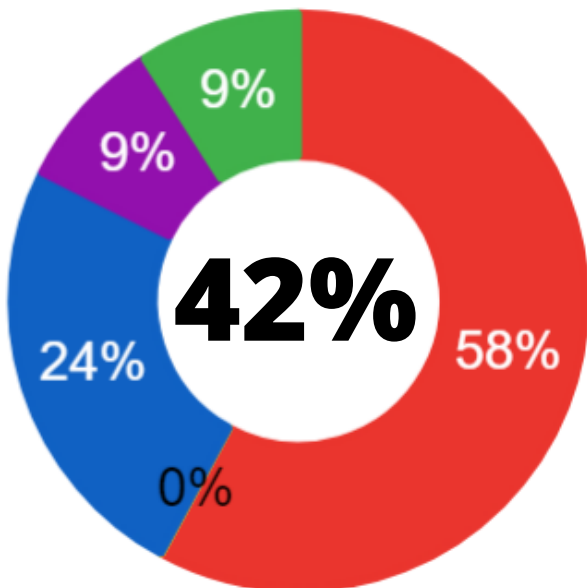
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# CAMPUS & HEALTHCARE DIVERSION RATE

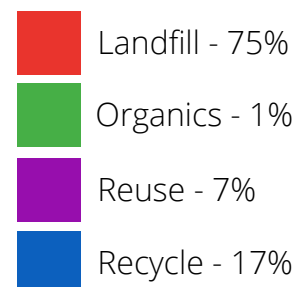
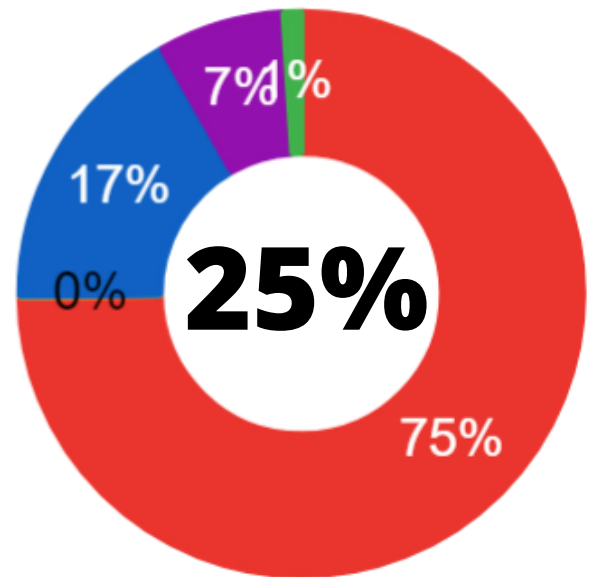
In 2020, three separate diversion rates are reported for the University of Kentucky.

1. A diversion rate for the whole University (academic campus and healthcare).
2. A diversion rate for academic campus.
3. A diversion rate for UK Healthcare Network.

## CAMPUS DIVERSION RATE



## HEALTHCARE DIVERSION RATE



Calculating a diversion rate for both academic campus and UK Healthcare will help identify opportunities for both campus to reach a 50% diversion rate by 2022 and UK Healthcare to establish a feasible diversion rate.

Given the campus diversion rate is 42%, UK Recycling anticipates achieving the Sustainability Strategic Plan goal of reaching 50% diversion by 2022.